

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for altering encryption status in a database, said method comprising the steps of:
  - providing a table in said database, said table including a maintenance area and a base area, said base area having a first set of records;
  - copying said first set of records from said base area to said maintenance area, thereby creating, in said maintenance area, a second set of records;
  - in response to a user instruction to modify data in a record in said first set of records, modifying data in a record in said second set of records;
  - altering encryption status of said base area;
  - copying said second set of records in said maintenance area to said base area, thereby creating in said base area, a third set of records; and
  - modifying a record in said third set of records.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of modifying a record in said second set of records is implemented in a trigger which is added to said table.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein modifying a record in said second set of records comprises receiving data manipulation language (DML) statements.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each base area in said database table has a corresponding maintenance area.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of:
  - emptying said maintenance area.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of: emptying said base area before said step of altering.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said step of emptying the base area comprises the step of:  
setting the value of a record in said first set of records to NULL.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of: changing a data type of said base area.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the data type of the base area is changed to a data type representing raw binary data.

Claims 10-15 (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein modifying a record in said third set of records comprises receiving data manipulation (DML) statements.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said base area comprises a first column of said table and said maintenance area comprises a second column of said table.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of altering encryption status of said base area comprises activating encryption means of said base area.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium containing instructions for executing the method recited in claim 1.

20. (Previously Presented) A system configured to execute the method recited in claim 1.

21. (New) A method for altering encryption status in a database, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a table in said database, said table including a maintenance area and a base area, said base area having a first set of records;

copying all data of said first set of records from said base area to said maintenance area, thereby creating a second set of records in said maintenance area;

modifying data in a record in said second set of records upon receiving an instruction to modify data in a corresponding record in said first set of records;

altering encryption status of said base area;

copying all data of said second set of records in said maintenance area to said base area, thereby creating a third set of records in said base area.

22. (New) The method of claim 22, comprising the further step of:  
modifying the third set of records.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein: copying all data of said first set of records from said base area to said maintenance area, further comprises the steps of:

decrypting all data of said first set of records; and

copying the decrypted data as the second set of records in said maintenance area.

24. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein said second set of records is a mirror of said first set of records.